

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for stabilizing a protein solution formulation, which comprises storing the protein solution formulation under magnetic field lines.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic flux density is 1 mT (millitesla) or more.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the protein is a physiologically active protein.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the physiologically active protein is selected from an antibody, an enzyme, a cytokine and a hormone.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the physiologically active protein is a hematopoietic factor.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the hematopoietic factor is erythropoietin or granulocyte colony-stimulating factor.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the physiologically active protein is an antibody.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the protein solution formulation is in the form of a pre-filled syringe formulation.

9. (Original) A storage container for holding a protein solution formulation, which comprises a magnetic field generator.

10. (Original) The storage container according to claim 9, wherein the magnetic field generator is a magnet.

11. (Original) A method for stabilizing a protein-containing solution, which comprises storing the protein-containing solution under magnetic field lines.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the protein-containing solution is a bulk solution for protein production.

13. (Original) A stabilized protein formulation, which is prepared from a bulk solution for protein production stored under magnetic field lines.

14. (Original) The formulation according to claim 13, wherein the stabilized protein formulation is in the form of a solution formulation.

15. (Original) The formulation according to claim 13, wherein the stabilized protein formulation is in the form of a lyophilized formulation.

16. (Original) A method for suppressing the formation of associated matter in a protein solution formulation, which comprises storing the protein solution formulation under magnetic field lines.

17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~The use of a magnetic field generator~~ A method for the stabilization of a protein solution formulation comprising placing the protein solution formulation in the field of a magnetic field generator.

18. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein said physiologically active protein is a hematopoietic factor.